

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 057405
ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 /023 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:KNBROWN:LG

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

-----160606Z 046911 /20

R 152053Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057405

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, OGEN, XH

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MOVE OF RFE/RL TO US

1. AS MOST ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE AWARE, THE GENERAL
ACCOUNTING OFFICE CONCLUDED IN A JUNE 1976 STUDY THAT
IT WOULD BE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE FOR RADIO FREE EUROPE/
RADIO LIBERTY TO PERFORM A MAJOR PORTION OF THEIR
ACTIVITIES IN THE US, AT AN ANNUAL SAVING OF 3.3 MILLION
DOLLARS. THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 057405

RESPONDED WITH ITS OWN STUDY, WHICH REVEALED SIGNIFICANT
DISADVANTAGES, FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL, TO A RELOCATION.
BECAUSE OF THE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN FINDINGS, THE
BOARD CONTRACTED A PRIVATE CONSULTANT (ARTHUR ANDERSEN &
CO.) TO DO AN INDEPENDENT STUDY, WHICH INTER ALIA CONCLUDED
THAT THE IDENTIFIABLE ONE TIME COSTS OF RELOCATING THE
RADIOS FROM MUNICH TO THE US ARE APPROXIMATELY 17.1 MILLION

DOLLARS, WHILE ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS SAVINGS OF SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE 3.5 MILLION DOLLARS. THE STUDY DID NOT MAKE A FINAL CONCLUSION AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF RELOCATION BECAUSE THE "POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL" RAMIFICATIONS OF RELOCATION WERE NOT ADDRESSED.

2. THE DEPARTMENT CLEARLY HAS AN INPUT TO MAKE FROM A FOREIGN POLICY STANDPOINT INTO ANY DECISION REGARDING THE

RELOCATION OF THE RADIOS IN THE US. THE PURPOSE OF THIS CABLE IS TO ELICIT THE VIEW OF ADDRESSEE POSTS AS FOLLOWS:

3. FOR BONN: WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: HOW WOULD A MAJOR RELOCATION OF THE RADIOS AFFECT FRG PERCEPTIONS OF THE US PRESENCE AND COMMITMENT IN EUROPE? WOULD A MOVE AT THIS TIME BE PERCEIVED AS A BACKING DOWN FROM OUR HELSINKI COMMITMENTS IN THE FACE OF INCREASED SOVIET AND EE ATTACKS AGAINST THE RADIOS? HOW WOULD SUCH A MOVE AFFECT FRG INTERNAL POLITICS, AND MIGHT THE RELOCATION BECOME A DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE? TO WHAT EFFECT? WOULD A MOVE REDUCE THE FRG RESOLVE AND COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING? FINALLY, WOULD A MOVE MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THE NECESSARY RFE/RL SKELETON EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL, INCLUDING TRANSMITTERS, IN THE FRG?

4. FOR MOSCOW AND EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS: HOW WOULD SUCH A MOVE BE INTERPRETED BY THE LEADERSHIPS, THE INTELLECTUALS AND OTHER POTENTIAL LISTENERS IN YOUR COUNTRY?
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 057405

WOULD IT BE PERCEIVED AS ACQUIESCENCE TO SOVIET/EE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE RADIOS? HOW DO YOU FEEL A MOVE WOULD AFFECT TIMELINESS AND FLAVOR OF BROADCASTS (AND RESEARCH)? MIGHT A MOVE TO THE US, WITH A CURRENT CHANGEOVER IN MUCH OF THE BROADCASTING PERSONNEL, MAKE THE REGIME AT LEAST INITIALLY LESS HOSTILE TO THE RADIOS?

5. ADDRESSEES SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT FLOAT THESE QUESTIONS WITH HOST COUNTRY CONTACTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP YOUR COMMENTS, WHICH NEED NOT RESTRICT THEMSELVES TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS. INFO ADDRESSEES ARE ALSO INVITED TO COMMENT.
VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, RADIO STATIONS, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE057405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KNBROWN:LG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770089-0757
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770357/aaaabyjt.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a0581b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3101127
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE MOVE OF RFE/RL TO US
TAGS: SOPN, OGEN, XH, US, RFE, RL
To: BONN MOSCOW MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a0581b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009